

Whole Body Donation Programs

Organization	Web Site / Phone	Return Cremains (Y/N) / Timeline
Nation-wide Whole Body Procurement Programs		
Anatomy Gifts Registry (Hanover, MD) Nonprofit	http://www.anatomygifts.org/ Phone: 1-800-300-5433	Yes (\$35) / 4 to 6 weeks
BioGift Anatomical and Surgical Education Center (Portland, OR)	http://biogift.org/ Phone: 1-866-670-1799.	Yes / 8 to 12 weeks
Genesis (Memphis, TN) (Nonprofit)	http://genesislegacy.org/ Phone: 1-877-288-4483	Yes / 6 - 12 months
Science Care (Phoenix, AZ with additional facilities in CO, NJ, FL and CA)	http://www.sciencecare.com/ Phone: 1-800-417-3747	Yes / 3 to 5 weeks
United Tissue Network (Norman, OK, Phoenix, AZ) Nonprofit	http://unitedtissue.org/ Phone: 1-877-738-6111	Yes / 4 to 6 weeks (If a special project is selected and the donor qualifies, it can take up to 2 years for the cremated remains to be returned.)

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Willed Body Programs at Universities		
Dell Medical School Donated bodies are provided by UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, TX	http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/research/programs/willed-body Phone: 214-648-2221 or 1-888-905-9991 If death occurs at a residence, the family must pay a local funeral home to pick up and refrigerate the body.	Yes (no charge) / usually within 2 years
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics Bryan, TX	http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/willed-body/ Phone: 979-436-0316 A contracted funeral home (specified on donor ID card) will drive to Austin area to pick up the body at no charge.	Yes (\$100) / 2 to 5 years
Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center San Marcos, TX	http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/donations.html Phone: 1-512-245-1900 If death occurs at a residence, the family must pay a local funeral home to pick up and refrigerate the body.	Not applicable
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology San Antonio, TX	http://uthscsa.edu/csb/bodydonation/ Phone: 210-567-3900 If death occurs more than 100 miles from Center, family must pay for additional mileage. If contracted funeral home in San Antonio cannot pick up the body right away and the body is not in a morgue, the family must pay a 3 rd party to pick up and refrigerate the remains until the San Antonio funeral home can get there. Maximum charge: \$300	Yes (\$250) / 6 months to 5 years

If you register with a body donation program, please keep in mind that – just as with organ, tissue, and/or eye donations – the condition of the body **at the time of death** may render it ineligible for donation. **For this reason, always have an alternate plan for the final disposition of the body.**

The Importance of Informed Consent

Consumer interest in whole body donation is on the rise. Typically, the public considers body donation an altruistic act that makes body parts, organs, and tissue available for research, bio-product development, and demonstration of new devices. However, in a May 19, 2003, Boston Herald article, the chairman of the Health Law Department of Boston University's School of Public Health said, "The market for body parts has become very lavish—skin, brain, heart valves are not just used for research but are part of a for-profit industry now. People need to be informed of this."

This is just one reason that **a crucial element of any organ, tissue, or whole body donation process is the informed consent of the donor and/or the family**, which should, at an absolute minimum, include a voluntary decision based on **full disclosure of the facts**.

The following questions will help you get the information you need:

1. What professional accreditations, if any, does this organization have?
2. Is this a nonprofit organization?
3. May I be an organ, tissue or eye donor for living recipients before my body is donated for research or education?
4. What information about me must be provided by my family?
5. What costs will my family be required to pay?
6. What diseases or conditions at time of death would make my body unacceptable for donation?
7. Will you accept a body that has been autopsied?
8. Which tissues, organs, and body parts will be allocated?
9. For what purpose will the donated tissue, organs, and body parts be used?
10. If remains are to be used for research, can I or my family specify that the research be limited to a particular disease or condition?
11. What limitations can be placed on the use of tissues, organs, and body parts?
12. What entities will receive which allocated tissues, organs, and body parts? (If a recipient is a research program or the purpose is educational, the family should be told the name of the organization, the program, the specific body parts provided, and the location of the organizational recipient.)
13. What parts of the body will be included in cremated remains returned to the family?
14. Who can my family contact for additional information, and how can they be contacted?